What Can I Carry On The School Bus?

Any items carried on a school bus must meet all standards and regulations set out by Transport Canada, D250 and the Motor Vehicle Act Regulation.

Musical Instruments: Musical instruments may be transported on school district buses provided they do not exceed the size of an alto saxophone.

All permitted musical instruments must:

- Fit comfortably within the student's seating space.
- Be positioned between the student's legs and no higher than their knees.
- Be securely held by the student for the duration of the trip.
- Not extend into the aisle, interfere with another passenger's space, or obstruct the seat in front.

Oversized musical instruments, including guitars, trombones, and other instruments that cannot meet these requirements, will not be transported on school district buses.

Personal Belongings: Belongings carried on the bus must be contained in a regular sized backpack which can be easily managed and held by the student. All items must fit comfortably in the passenger's space without extending into the aisle or interfering with other passengers.

Driver's Authority: At the driver's discretion students may be directed to designated seats to better accommodate the students' belongings.

In accordance with Transport Canada, D250 and MVA Regulations, School Bus Drivers **CANNOT** transport items other than a regular backpack which can fit comfortably within the student's seating space without extending into another student's space (or into the aisle, or in front of the student).

The following items **CANNOT** be safely transported on a school bus. This list includes, but is not limited to:

- Guitars, Trombones, Tenor and Bari Saxophones
- Drums, Cellos and other large instruments
- Hockey and Lacrosse Sticks
- Sports Equipment (Hockey and Football)
- Baseball Bats
- Large school projects that will not fit within the student's space
- Skateboards (both regular and long)

Items which **CAN** be transported:

- A regular size backpack that sits comfortably within the student's seat space
- Small band instruments such as flutes, trumpets - anything up to the size of, and including, an alto saxophone
- Recreational sports balls contained within the student's backpack

Safety Measures and Compartmentalization

School buses are engineered to provide the highest level of protection for a large group of students. They are not designed to safely carry cargo along with the students. The compromise is the backpack, with all items stored securely inside that can sit comfortably in the student's space. Hard items sticking out of the backpack and/or strapped to the outside of the backpack compromise the safety provided by compartmentalization.

Under the compartmentalization concept seat backs in school buses are made higher, wider, and thicker than before and they are closer together. All metal surfaces are covered with energy absorbing padding. Today's bus seats must have a steel inner structure that bends forward to help absorb energy. When a child is thrown against the seat it must absorb the weight of the child in the seat behind. This protects the child in the event of a sudden stop or accident. Anything that is stored in front of a student's face or between their legs above the knees prevents them from receiving the protection of the padded surface in front of them. The School District has a responsibility to transport students safely to and from school. Allowing unsafe, cargo is neglecting that responsibility.



We appreciate your efforts and your support in maintaining a safe environment.